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JUDGE GRAY'S OPTIMISM.

In his opening address to the members of the tenth annual conference on international arbitration, held at Lake Mohonk, N. Y., Judge Gray exhibited a degree of optimism that is refreshing—but not borne out by the hard facts of the situation, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. A firm believer in internal and in international arbitration, the views of Judge Gray are entitled to the most respectful consideration. But his citation of examples of the work of The Hague tribunal was unfortunate, to say the least. Congratulating the conference on the progress of negotiations between England and the United States looking to the establishment of a board of arbitration for the settlement of all questions, Judge Gray gave to the czar the highest meed of praise for his suggestion of The Hague tribunal "as a work that will shed more glory on his reign than any triumph, however great, which his armies may achieve." It is to be so hoped, especially in view of the small share of triumph which is now falling to them.

But if The Hague tribunal is all that Judge Gray claims it to be, what necessity is there for a court of arbitration for the settlement of disputes between Great Britain and the United States? The very fact of such negotiations being in progress is, of itself, a minimizing of the effects of the establishment of The Hague tribunal, even when the contempt in which the czar held it in his defiant refusal to submit to it the question of his duty to evacuate Manchuria is not considered. But Judge Gray completely demolished all cause for optimism when he said:

"The submission to The Hague tribunal of the claims urged against Venezuela by two or three of the most powerful nations of the world is another notable triumph from which to take much encouragement for the future."

The judges in the Venezuela case were selected by the czar of Russia. They were Count Muraviev and M. De Maartens, both Russians, and M. Henry von Lammasch, an Austrian. Count Muraviev was chairman and delivered the opinion. Great Britain, Germany and Italy, holding claims against Venezuela, had blockaded Venezuelan ports with battleships, when, through the good offices of Minister Bowen, submission was made to The Hague tribunal. It was not claimed before that tribunal, by any power, that the claims of the three nations were more entitled to preferential treatment than the claims of the United States, France, Mexico or other claimant nations, save for the reason that the three powers had resorted to blockading methods in the enforcement of their claims.

The issue, therefore, was this—does the use of force by any nation entitle it to preferential treatment in the payment of its claims? And the answer of the two Russians and the one Austrian was in the affirmative. With the holding that force and arms and blockades were methods recognized by a tribunal primarily established for the maintenance of peace, the value of The Hague tribunal was gone. It was the holding that the first bully on the scene, with his gun, was entitled to preference against the nation pursuing peaceful methods. Judge Gray's optimism is refreshing, but misplaced.

A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR.

The San Francisco Call has the following to say of the 1905 fair:

The plans for Portland's Lewis and Clark centennial exposition are developing into tangible shape and are already in such condition as to justify the statement that the fair will not only be creditable, but with the exception of the great Chicago and St. Louis fairs, will be one of the largest and finest ever held in this country. It will open in just about a year, that is, on June 1, 1905. Like our own midwinter fair, following as it did the Chicago exhibition, the Portland fair will have the advantage of following the St. Louis exposition, and will thus profit by obtaining many of the exhibits that will have been shown there.

The Lewis and Clark exposition will represent an outlay of about \$5,000,000, which amount will cover the expense of laying out the grounds, construction of buildings and installing exhibits. The United States government has appropriated \$475,000 and will have an exhibit valued at over \$300,000 more. Oregon alone has appropriated \$450,000, which is at

the rate of about \$1 per capita for each of her inhabitants.

California, Montana, Utah and Idaho have already appropriated money, and Nevada, Colorado and Arizona have exhibits read, and only await legislative appropriation for transportation and maintenance. Missouri, Minnesota and North Dakota have set aside a fund to send their St. Louis exhibits to Portland, while Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota are awaiting action by their legislatures to enable them to do likewise. New York and Massachusetts have also made appropriations.

Every one living on this coast should take pride in seeing Portland's effort a success. There is and should be a fealty existing between California and the adjacent states which it is well to foster. We have, with them, many interests in common and the building up of one locality tends to the prosperity of those near at hand. San Francisco in particular should take an active interest in the matter. Professional tourists, strangers generally, and the inhabitants of other states, will be attracted to this coast who would not otherwise come, and they will not be likely to leave without paying a visit to the metropolis. Aside from that fact, however, we owe to Portland the moral and material support which should prevail between good neighbors. We should aid her in presenting the best side to visitors at her reception, and to that end should send of our fruits, flowers and many other good things. In short we must recognize the fact that so far as the east is concerned the exposition will be known as a Pacific coast enterprise and the whole Pacific coast will profit by the credit of it.

LIVING ON THIRTEEN CENTS A DAY.

Some of the good women connected with Teachers college in this city have "demonstrated" that a "family of six persons" can live "bountifully" at an expense of not more than 13 cents each per day, says the New York Commercial. The term, a "family of six persons" will strike many skeptical people as leaving something to be desired.

Suppose four of the six persons to consist of healthy boys ranging in age from 10 to 14 years, with appetites all there. Did the good woman at the Teachers college ever see boys of those years at "feed"? Apparently not. If they had ever witnessed the spectacle they never could have reached the sweeping conclusion that a family of six persons of any and every description could live bountifully on 13 cents a day each. One of these young animals could make 13 cents' worth of provender in the course of one day look like 30 cents.

The intent of the women in question is undoubtedly praiseworthy. Without question many of the poorer classes could, with intelligent care, provide themselves with not only a cheaper table but a better one than they do. A great deal of money is annually wasted for want of knowledge and foresight in this respect. But right-minded parents who are able to provide fairly for their children will not attempt to limit the latter—particularly if they be boys—to a watery or starvation diet. It would be a crime against posterity for them to do so.

Children need abundance of wholesome food as well as they need suitable clothing and fresh air, and this requirement should have precedence over the saving of a few dollars in household expenses.

There are 9000 burning lights and signals stretched along the American coast, forming a perfect link, so that the navigator never need be beyond sight of one of the beacons. One thousand of these are located on the Atlantic coast, 1500 are scattered along the rivers and inland waterways, 500 on the great lakes and 200 on the Pacific coast. Of the grand total, including lighthouses of different classes, buoys, beacons and danger signals 3000 are lighted, giving forth their warnings at night time. Of these a score or more throw a beam of 100,000 candle power. To maintain the lighthouse service a corps of over 4000 men is constantly employed and a fleet of more than 50 vessels. No service in the world exceeds our own in completeness and efficiency. A modern American lighthouse of the first class costs between \$100,000 and \$200,000, and of this about one-third is spent for the electric light and apparatus alone. Beside one of them Egyptian Canopus or Rhodes' "perfect idol, with profulent brows," whose rays streamed down the purple seas of Mizraim, would shine as tapers in the Mediterranean night, with no place among the seven wonders of the world, and hardly worth noticing.

New York state is now supporting nearly 14,000 aliens in its various charitable and penal institutions, and of this number nearly 6,200 are inmates of insane asylums. This large strain of imported insanity in our population is a very serious matter, for undoubtedly some of it has been transmitted to the rising generation—with what grave results time alone can show. It is obvious that there is a serious defect in our immigration laws when such a vast army of mentally-diseased foreigners can find admission within our gates. Careful investigation into the family antecedents of immigrants ought to enable our authorities to discover whether they are admitting to this country candidates for bedlam.

The Japanese are beginning to take victories as matters of course.

DRAMATIC.

Last night at Fishers' opera house the Empire Stock Company gave a rendition of "Faust," which, considering the conveniences at hand, was very good. The play was well received.

As Marguerite, Miss Snell is excellent. The role is a favorite one with Miss Snell, and she loses her own individuality in the part to such an extent that she brings the audience out of their seats. This may sound overdrawn, but it was very noticeable during the jewel scene, when Miss Snell played so well the part of the virgin whose heart is for the first time learning the lesson of love. On the majority of faces in the audience there was a smile—everyone smiles at love. But it is a compliment to Miss Snell that everyone doesn't smile at stage love unless it is a great deal like the real thing—and all smiled last night. Again, in the death of Valentine, Miss Snell brought some in her audience to tears. As an emotional actress Miss Snell is in her element, but with the true temperament of a star she can cause smiles as well as tears.

Harry Wheeler played the title role. Mr. Wheeler is a light comedian, as he gave evidence in "Married by Mistake" the night before. He has not the personality, not the voice, not the manner to play a heavy part like Faust. Harry Wheeler is a coming man. He has not yet arrived, but when he does his name will be on the billboards in type three feet high. Mr. Wheeler plays Faust under protest. Such a part is not his forte, and he knows it. But for playing a part under protest, for playing a part he does not like and knows he can not play, he did splendidly last night. One thing Mr. Wheeler is to be commended upon—he is natural at all times; he never overdraws the part, and the audience looks at the character through Mr. Wheeler as they would see it in real life. In the early stages of the play, where Faust's passion is worked up from curiosity to blood heat, Mr. Wheeler showed to great advantage. He allowed himself to become worked up in proper stages, and the best thing about it is that the acting was not overdrawn nor overcharged with mannerisms—a thing some greater Fausts would do well to look to. Mr. Wheeler deserves the best that can be said about his work—not as Faust, for Mr. Wheeler to play Faust is like a farmer doing a stunt in the 400—but as an actor who has that presence of mind on the stage, who has that natural grace and that grasp of circumstances that made the name and fame of one John Drew.

As Mephisto, Mr. Aldridge was a wonder. The audience as a whole conceded that. He is at home in the part, and he was accorded frequent applause last night. He commanded the closest attention every moment he was on the stage. His words sank into his audience—they went below the surface! He had a moral to point out as Mephisto, and he pointed it out. Mr. Aldridge is an accomplished actor in any part, but here he had a part that fitted him as a glove. The best that can be said of his work is that it is strong, strong! And this tells all one can in praise of anyone's Mephisto.

Though a minor part, Valentine was made very strong by Mr. McKenzie. The death scene, where Valentine discovers his sister's betrayer, was so well worked out between Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Wheeler that they were accorded enthusiastic applause at the end of the scene.

The minor parts of the play were well rendered, and the entire presentation was a success. Tonight, by request, the troupe will repeat their first bill, "Capital vs. Labor," and it is expected that this, their last night in the city, will find the house crowded as it was last night, with the S. R. O. sign out.

McCULLLEY.

Miss Mary Welkins arrived yesterday for a visit of several days with friends and relatives.

E. Edwards, the Lewis and Clark cigar man, was selling his wares in the city yesterday. He reports a good business.

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